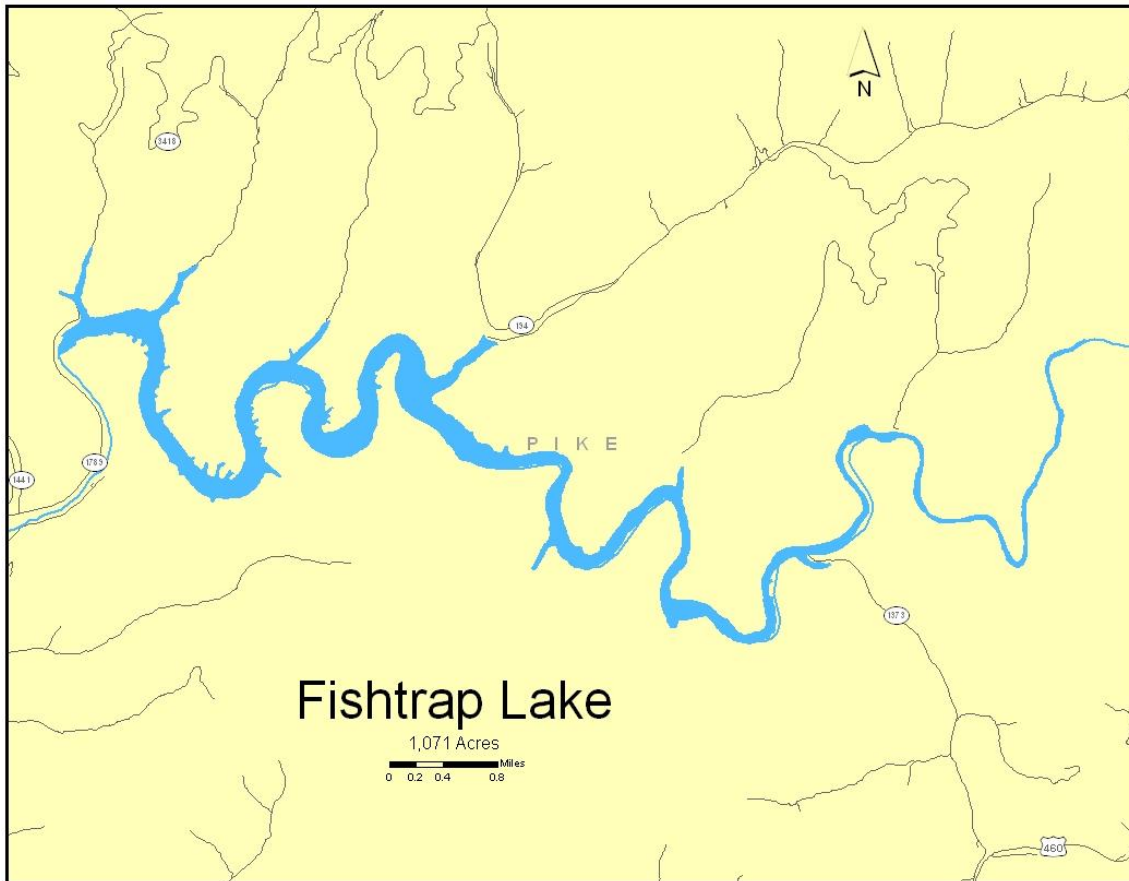


Fishtrap Lake Bass Assessment 2013

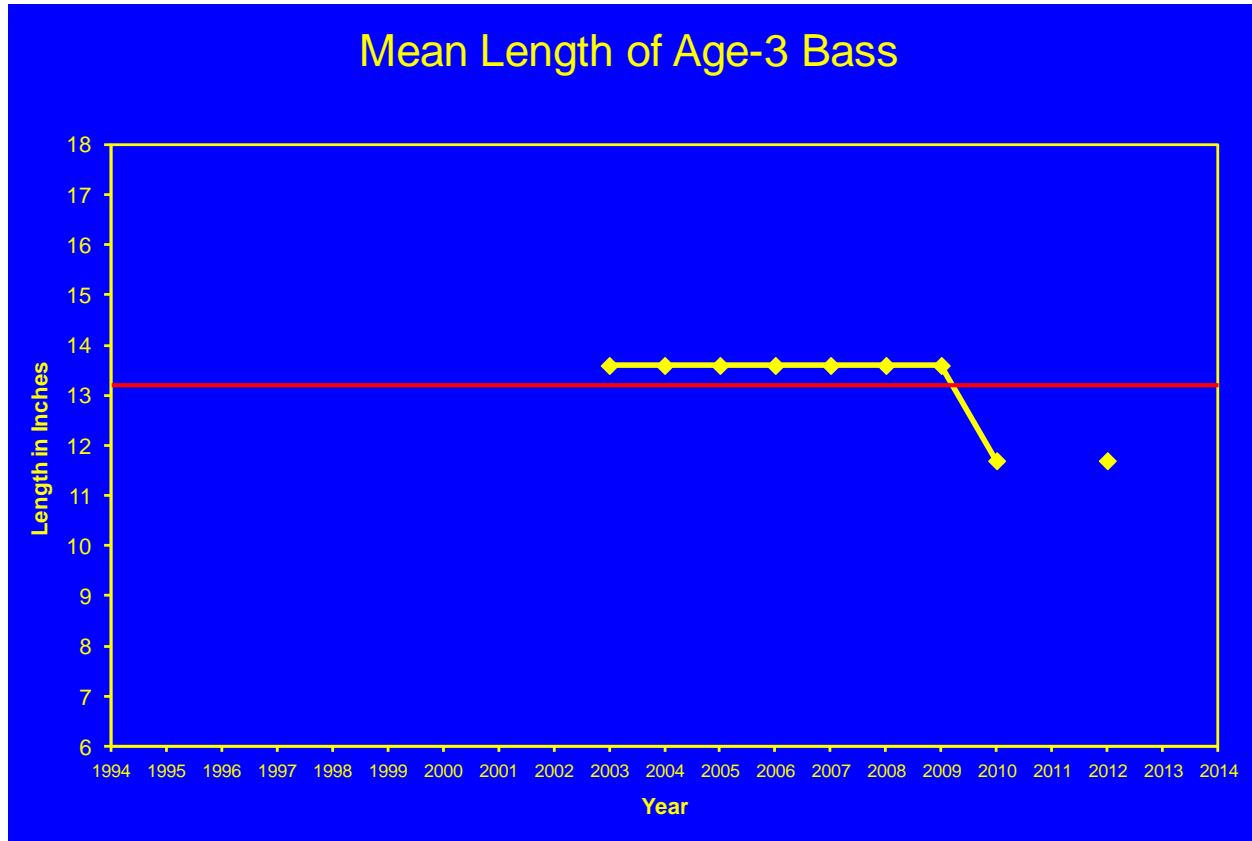
Fishtrap Lake is a 1,143 acre multipurpose reservoir on the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River in Pike County. This lake is an excellent choice as a fishing destination for many species including hybrid striped bass, white crappie, bluegill, flathead, and channel catfish. The lake also provided good opportunities for all three black bass species (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass) common to Kentucky. In addition to statewide consumption advisories, specific advisories are in place for black bass, white bass, catfish, drum, suckers, and carp. These advisories limit harvest and have subsequently increased the quality of fish present in the lake.

The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment. Please see “Understanding The Largemouth Bass Assessment” article for an explanation of how the assessment works.



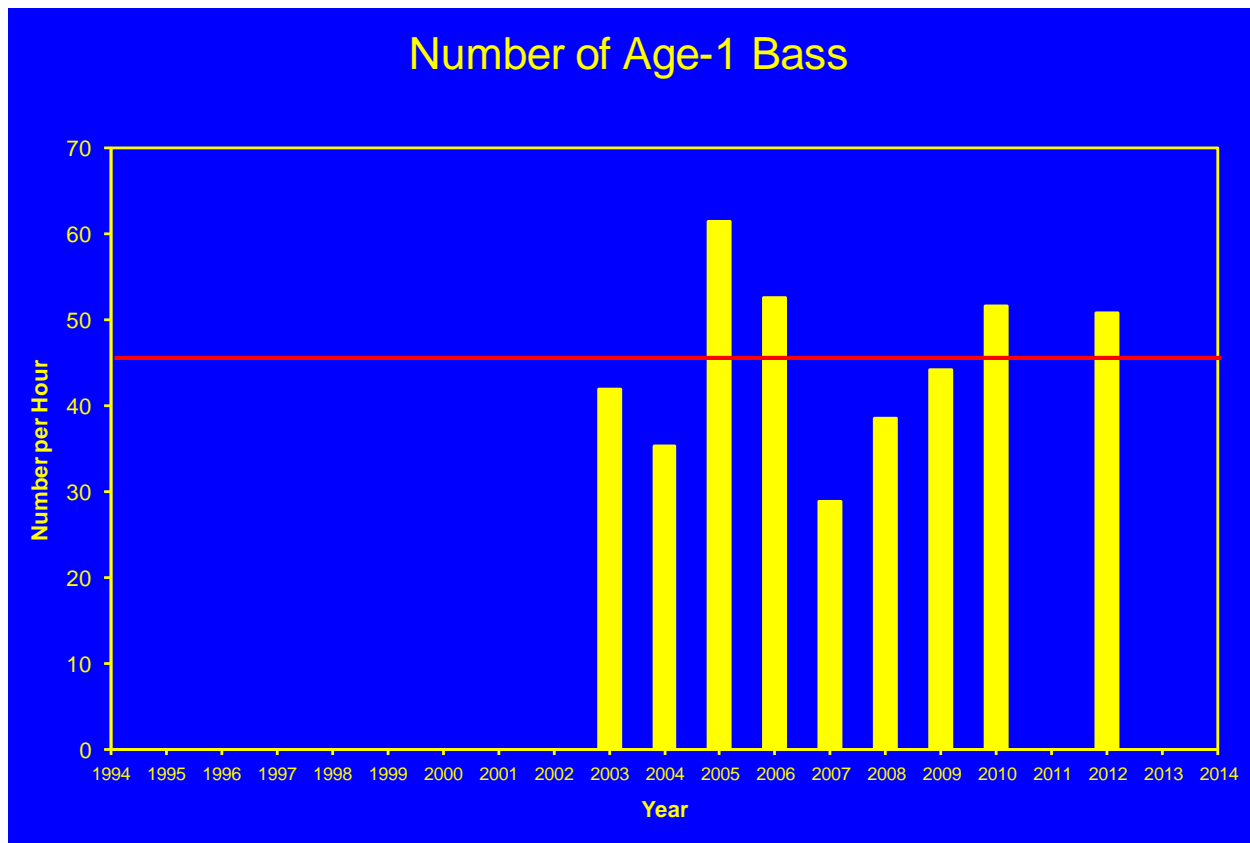
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Fishtrap Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged 13.2 inches since 2003 (see red line). When compared to other lakes of this size this is considered to be excellent growth for largemouth bass. In 2010 the mean length of age-3 fish was 11.7 inches (“good”), down from 13.6 inches (“excellent”) recorded in 2004. Growth rates are generally related to factors such as population density, food resources, and weather patterns.



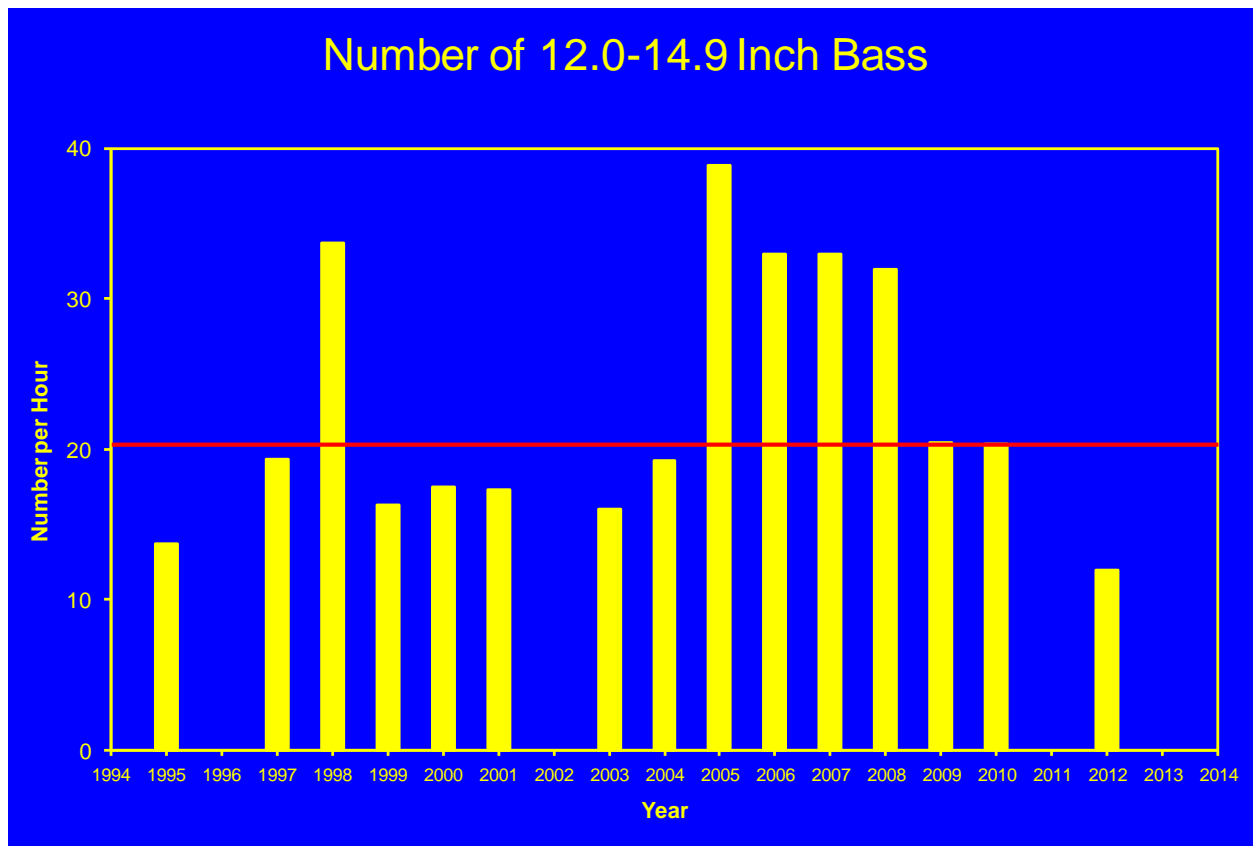
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the electrofishing catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn which occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Fishtap Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged just over 45.03 fish per hour of electrofishing (red line) since 2003. When compared to other lakes in this size range, this is considered to be a “good” age-1 catch rate. From the 2005 high of 61.50 fish/hr, the spring catch of age-1 largemouth bass trended lower to a low of 28.90 fish/hr in 2007. Catch rates then rebounded to the current level of 51.55 in 2010 and 50.75 in 2012, which is considered “excellent”. There were no samples collected during the spring of 2011 and 2013.



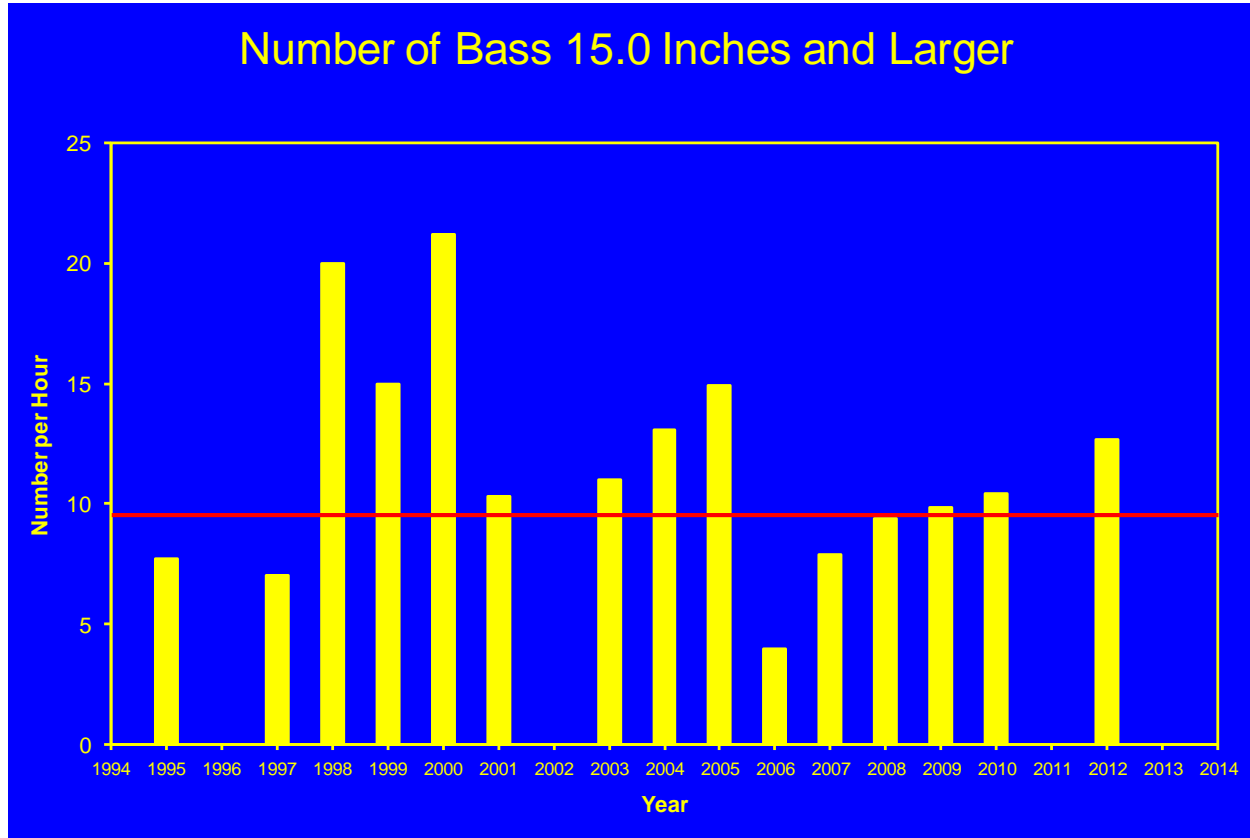
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged 20.02 fish/hr from 1986-2013 (red line), which gives Fishtrap Lake a “fair” rating when compared to other lakes in its size range. In 2005, the catch rates for this size range of bass peaked at 38.90 fish per hour. Declines have been seen in recent years with the catch rate settling about even with the lake average in 2009 (20.42 fish per hour) and 2010 (20.40 fish per hour). These numbers are important because these fish will soon grow to exceed the 15.0 inch legal size limit at the lake in the next year or two. The 2012 sample of 12.00 fish per hour is below the lake average and falls in the “poor” category. This could be due to unsuccessful supplemental bass stockings in 2008-2010. However, fish numbers greater than 15.0 and 20.0 inches are doing very good to furnish a quality fishery. There was no data collected in 2002, 2011, and 2013.



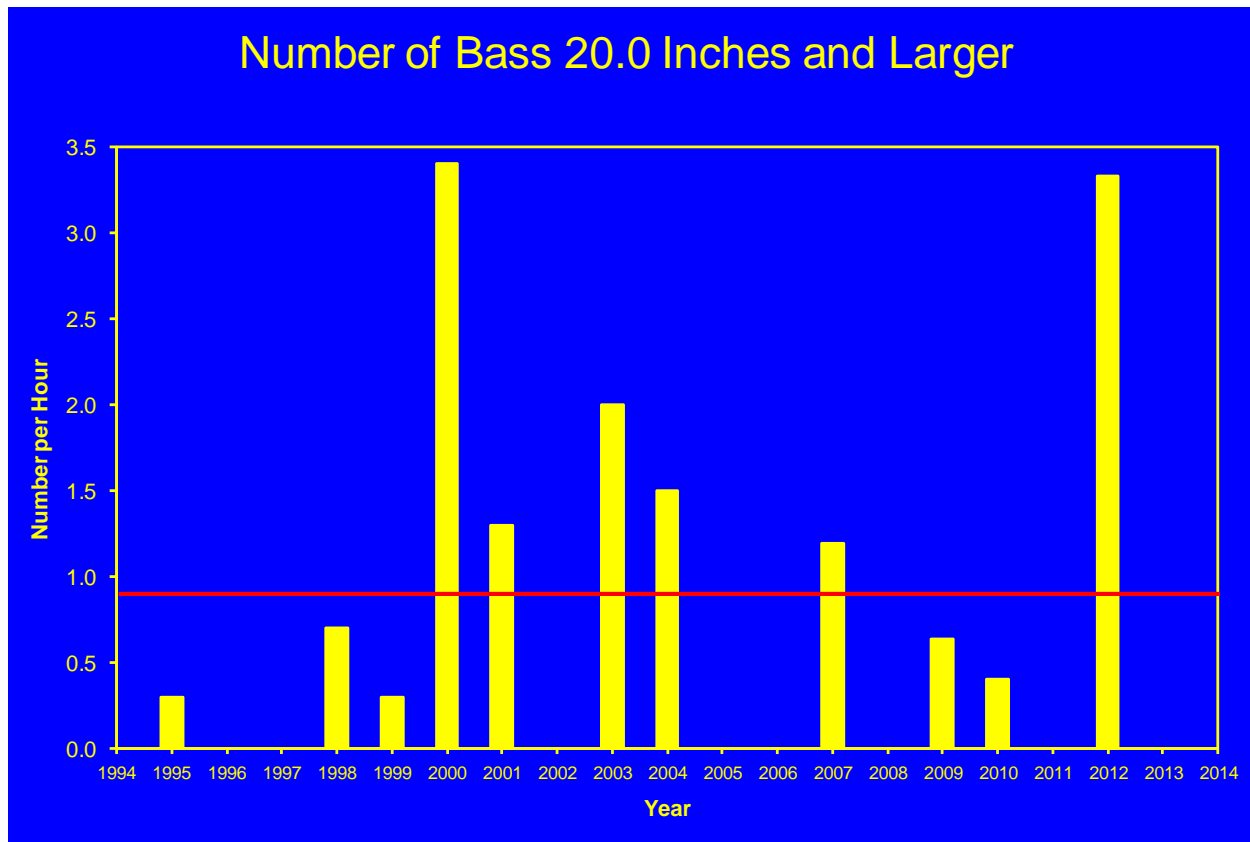
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

The catch rate of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass at Fishtrap Lake has averaged 9.25 fish per hour of electrofishing for a rating of “fair” since 1986. In 2012, 12.67 fish/hr were captured indicating an increasing trend for the sixth year in a row. This score is now above the lake average. This indicates that the harvestable largemouth bass population in Fishtrap Lake will be relatively stable for the next few years.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0-inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged 0.78 fish per hour for Fishtrap Lake since 1986 (red line). This catch rate gives the lake a “fair” rating when it is compared to other lakes in its size range. In 2012, biologists observed a catch rate of 3.33 fish per hour over 20.0 inches. Fishtrap anglers should have great opportunity to catch trophy fish.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Fishtrap Lake has averaged a “good” rating (13.3) over the past 11 years (lake average is represented by the red line). The largemouth bass population at this lake has been fairly consistent. In 2012, the overall assessment rating (15) for the largemouth bass population kept Fishtrap Lake the “good” category. There are greater numbers of fish over 15.0 and 20.0 inches when compared to most all previous years at Fishtrap Lake.

